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THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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SINCE 1877
Y. 22, 2010
VOL. 134
No. 28



Ag Fellowship to meet Aug. 7 at Central Hills

The Mississippi Agricultural Development Foundation and Fellowship will be meeting in joint session Aug. 7, beginning at 10 a.m., at Central Hills Retreat, Kosciusko. Phil and Verlene Thurston, IMB career missionaries to South Asia, will be sharing. The Thurstons began their work in North India and transferred to Bangladesh in 2005 to assist the strategy coordinator for the Tribal Team of Bangladesh.

Disaster officials study oil spill effects Youth Night 2010

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — There's plenty Southern Baptists can do for people affected by the Deepwater Horizon explosion and the millions of gallons of oil spilling into the Gulf of Mexico: provide hope for those who think they have none. "We need to ramp up the emotional/spiritual care," said Mickey Caison, adult volunteer mobilization team leader for the North American Mission Board (NAMB), as he summarized the consensus at what was called the Deepwater Horizon Summit in New Orleans.

The three-day conference, convened by the Southern Baptist Convention's disaster relief department of NAMB, involved about 40 people, including Baptist disaster relief leaders from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, plus regional and national leaders from the Salvation Army, American Red Cross, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Hundreds of millions of gallons of unrefined crude oil has been escaping into the Gulf of Mexico from the BP well. The fishing industry has been crippled; so has tourism and local economies in many places across the Gulf. Tar balls have been found on beaches in all five Gulf states.

About one-third of Gulf waters have been closed to fishing, and in some cases beaches are closed.

"The people are down," said Gibbie McMillan, disaster relief director for the Louisiana Baptist Convention. "What better time to offer hope? ...There is a larger opportunity now; no need to wait for a hurricane. We've got to come up with some way of offering hope."

Presenters from the Unified Area Command, which is coordinating government and BP response to the oil spill, and members of National VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters) together with Baptist disaster relief leaders described the challenges of what is an industrial accident rather than an "act of God" disaster, which means it is not under the purview of FEMA.

For Southern Baptists who want to help, that means going through local associations and state conventions rather than a coordinated response through Southern Baptist Disaster Relief.

"We've not been here before," Caison said. "This is new territory for us. There's a whole scope of underlying things and we need in some way to pull something together different from ever before."

Among the challenges:

- How to help people without further damaging the local economy. For example, volunteers cleaning up beaches take income away from people who have been hired by BP to do the job.

- How, where, and when to provide disaster relief chaplains, how to provide housing/meals for them, and how might they be utilized in conjunction with stress-reducing events such as block parties or movie nights.

- How to counteract the negative effect of much of the media coverage coming from talk radio, television, and print.



Aaron Keyes performs on the evening of July 16 at the 2010 Mississippi Baptist Youth Night at Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson. For the first time in the history of Youth Night, two events were held on successive nights in Jackson and at BancorpSouth Arena in Tupelo. Next week's issue of The Baptist Record will contain full coverage of the annual event, the largest gathering of Mississippi Baptists anywhere in the state. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

- How and when to allocate which resources in a timely manner. Needs of states impacted by the oil spill vary, and will continue to vary depending on the path of the oil slick.

- Varying people groups need help unique to their situation. Those who have worked in the fishing industry are in a different place emotionally and spiritually than are the hundreds of workers brought in by BP to help clean up.

- Forecasts that 2010 could see a record number of sizable hurricanes, with ramifications on volunteer groups involved in post-hurricane disaster relief. Safety and environmental issues related to oil-soaked debris raise the question of what kind of training may be needed.

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill has affected people in southern Louisiana longer than in the other Gulf states. Fishermen who have lost their jobs are on a list to be hired by BP for cleanup operations, but only a third have been called out. They have a multi-generational affinity for the marshlands that are becoming increasingly oil-soaked despite the best efforts of everyone involved.

They don't know when the crisis will be over and have increasingly dour thoughts about how long it will take — if ever — before life returns to "normal."

While such thoughts swirl in the minds of those involved in the Louisiana fishing industry, they need to feed their families, pay the note on their fishing boat, comfort their spouses, and keep a wary eye out on the weather.

The shrimping industry in Mississippi has been "shut down and people don't know when they'll get it back," said Jim Didlake, director of men's ministries for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The vacation industry has been impacted in Alabama, said Mel Johnson, state missionary for disaster relief with the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions. Florida tourism has been hit hard in Pensacola and the oyster season has been extended to compensate, said Fritz Wilson, director of disaster relief for the Florida Baptist Convention.

"The key for us is to get accurate information and disseminate it," Wilson said. "I really believe we can be a calm voice."

The Salvation Army is now asking people who come to its various service centers along the Gulf Coast how they're doing emotionally, regional director Bill Feist said. Trevor Rikken, senior director of disaster services with the American Red Cross, said, "[M]ental health is the big thing."

He called it "snowball stress" and said the Red Cross is looking for ways to provide coping skills. It's "mental health first aid," Rikken said.

Joe Arnold, director of missions in Louisiana's Bayou Baptist Association south of Interstate 10, spoke of the "hidden victims" — those who lived a cash lifestyle and don't have the receipts necessary to make a claim to the BP oil company. He also spoke of the 10,000 jobs lost in his association.

At 20, World Changers still going strong

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — Sitting against the backdrop of the Appalachians, the weathered house with a sunken roof seemed to defy gravity as it hung on the side of the mountain.

That's what Tim Earl remembers about the house he worked on in Briceville, Tenn., the site of the first World Changers project in 1990. A small coal-mining town, Briceville and its residents had seen better days before the mine played out and now was in need of much assistance.

It became the laboratory for a new kind of ministry: high school students, male and female, doing construction projects with the aim of getting students out of the classroom and onto the mission field where they could put hands and feet to their faith.

It was the first time anyone had suggested that students could be used in construction-type ministry projects. That summer, 137 youth and adults painted, roofed, and participated in light construction jobs on nine homes in the area.

Earl, then the interim youth minister at Central Bearden Church in Knoxville, Tenn., took a group of 10 youth to the pilot project. "I really didn't want to go," Earl admits. "I didn't promote World Changers because I didn't know how to do construction. Fortunately, some parents encouraged me to take a small group, and it changed my life."

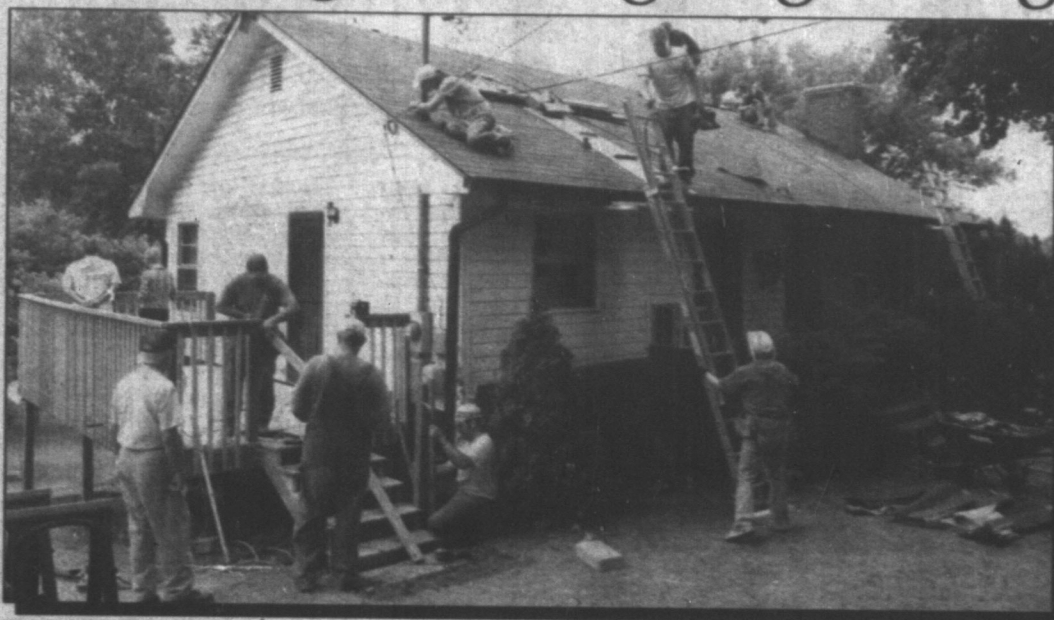
"Miss Doris' house needed a lot of work. Her husband had died years before of black lung disease, and she couldn't afford to make the much-needed repairs."

Earl's crew along with three adults and seven students from other participating churches re-roofed the backside of the house and built a retaining wall to keep water from flooding Miss Doris' basement.

The pilot project in 1990 was a success. Partnering with local churches, Southern Baptist associations, and city governments, World Changers became one of the first student volunteer organizations to help alleviate substandard housing in the United States.

It also was one of the first pre-packaged mission trips for Southern Baptist churches. "As the youth leader, I didn't have to worry about who's going to feed us, who's going to speak or where am I going to get the materials," Earl recounts. "All that's done for you. That's such a gift to the youth minister."

Mississippi Baptists have participated in World Changers from the beginning. Projects have ranged from far north Mississippi to the Delta to Mississippi River towns. Projects this summer have included locations in Meridian and Tupelo, with about 345 volunteers.



TWO DECADES — World Changers celebrated its 20th anniversary in Knoxville, Tenn., not far from Briceville, site of the first project in 1990. Mississippi Baptists have taken on World Changers projects through the years, from far north Mississippi to the Delta to Mississippi River towns. (BP photo)

What has kept Earl coming back year after year is the effect World Changers has on the students. "Many of them have never been on a roof or picked up a hammer. That first day they are always so shocked by the task before them," Earl says, "and then at the end of the week, seeing that finished project we did in four days with a crew of strangers who are not professionals, and realizing that the only way it happened was because of God using us and working through us."

Twenty years and more than 20,000 homes later, World Changers, a ministry of Southern Baptists' North American Mission Board, is still changing the lives of low-income residents as well as students.

"I have watched in awe through the years as the continuing blessing of God has sustained and strengthened World Changers," said Mike Day, director of missions for Mid-South Association and one of the founders of World Changers. "I think His greatest blessing, of course, is the ever-growing commitment of churches to mobilize their students for mission."

"This approach, no matter how creative and innovative, would have no appeal if God was not doing a work in the hearts of churches and students that drives them to minister to others," Day said. "His blessing has also sustained the initiative through financial challenges, leadership changes and even the reorganization of the SBC [during the mid-1990s]."

This summer, more than 23,000 teenagers and adults are sharing God's love by providing free labor in communities across the country. Students pay \$249 and give up a week of their summer to sleep on the

floor of a local high school and work eight-hour days, often in 90-degree heat.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary, World Changers returned to east Tennessee. Earl, now college and young adult minister at Central Bearden Church, coordinated a July 5-9 project in Knoxville when 300-plus students and adults helped roof or repair 20 homes in the metro area.

As a part of the celebration, a new Christian rock band, 7eventh Time Down, held a concert for participants debuting their song, *World Changer*.

John W. Bailey, team leader for student volunteer mobilization at the North American Mission Board, told the World Changers participants in Knoxville how excited he was about their generation and the increasing number of opportunities they have now to make a difference in North America and around the world.

"At the very beginning, few youth leaders were taking students for a whole week and putting them in this type of ministry," Bailey said. "I'm grateful for the past and look forward to the future."

In 1991, Bailey was a youth minister at First Church in Memphis when he took a group of students to World Changers in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas. "That week transformed me and gave me a new vision for student ministry," Bailey said. "World Changers is at its best when it becomes a tool, one that you can use in a wide spectrum for making disciples."

"Our students became leaders when they got back," Bailey recounted. "They learned what it means to make a sacrifice." Through the years, he has seen World Changers participants develop a deeper level of commitment to missions.

"We have to find new ways to push, challenge and call students to the front lines of missions," Bailey said. "We are calling out each one of our students, the 25,000 involved in World Changers and PowerPlant [a similar mission package, but focused on church planting] to serve a summer or semester in missions before they graduate or just after they graduate from college."

Looking back

10 years ago

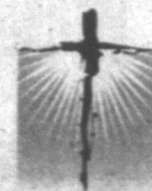
More than 6500 young people fill Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson July 14 for the year 2000 edition of Mississippi Baptist Youth Night, a gathering that over the decades has grown into the largest Baptist event in the state.

20 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Student Union dispatches ten students and two directors to Russia to help renovate a turn-of-the-century Baptist church that was closed and converted to a factory in 1933. Russian Baptists have settled on a name for the church: Temple of the Gospel.

30 years ago

W.A. Criswell, pastor of First Church, Dallas, states that "If [John] Kennedy is elected president, it will inevitably open the door for a United States ambassador to the Roman Catholic Church, tax support for Catholic schools, and finally the recognition of the Roman Church above all others."



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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JULY 22, 2010

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No. 28



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

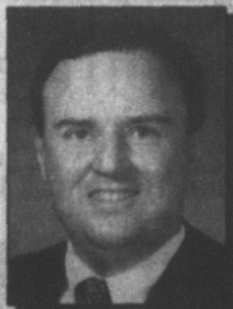
1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



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Who are the real bad guys?

A couple of years ago, the administrators at Burlington Township High School in New Jersey decided to hold a special emergency drill to deal with the real-world possibility that gunmen could take over the school and hold hostages — or worse. Given the state of our society today and many actual events like the Columbine High School massacre in Colorado, holding such an exercise is probably a practical thing to do.

"You perform as you practice," Superintendent Chris Manno told the Burlington County Times newspaper when he announced the drill. "We need to practice under conditions as real as possible in order to evaluate our procedures and plans so that they're as effective as possible." So far, so good.

The drill began with two Burlington Township police detectives playing the roles of gunmen. They burst into the school and "shot" students before holing up in a classroom with ten pretend student hostages.

What was the gunmen's scripted grievance against the school? The

newspaper reported that they were cast as members of a right-wing fundamentalist group known as the New Crusaders who don't believe in separation of church and state, and one of their daughters had been expelled from school for praying before class.

That's right — of all the deadly threats schools encounter daily and all the terrorist groups intent on inflicting mass casualties on the U.S., school officials in Burlington Township chose right-wing fundamentalist Christians and their obsession with school prayer to be the bad guys in this training scenario.

Such is the sorry state of affairs in our country today, when Christians can be painted as "New Crusaders" intent on inflicting death and destruction over school prayer — and concocting such a slander against Christians can apparently be accomplished with impunity.

The stadiums now stand silent. The vuvuzelas are packed away. Tourists are boarding planes, heading home to jobs and families. Media outlets are unplugging computers and loading up gear, ready to move on to the next big event.

Spain may still be celebrating their historic World Cup victory, but 31 other nations already are more focused on 2014 and how to do better next time. It seems practically the entire planet has been soccer-obsessed for the last month.

A question lingers in some believers' minds: Does God really care about the World Cup?

During the tournament, countless ministries shared the Gospel throughout South Africa, and we know God cares about the many souls who entered His Kingdom as well as those still searching.

In an event of such global magnitude, God's glory has opportunities to shine in many big and small ways. On a large scale, some African Christians claimed an African team would not win the World Cup because ancestral spirits, instead of Christ, would gain credit and praise. Many African players consulted witch doctors and spirits in an effort to gain victories.

Of course, one can't really take that argument to the

"BETWEEN S.A.R.S. AND TERRORISM AND THE IRAQ SITUATION, WE'VE DECIDED TO TAKE NO CHANCES!"



parroted by others like school officials planning disaster drills.

Who else stands up for the worth of individuals, the sanctity of human life, the integrity of marriage between one man and one woman, and so many other issues crucial to the future of our civilization? What other group creates such anxiety among the secularists who want to have their way, who want to be able to live their lives with no moral compass and no spiritual anchor?

That's why school officials, Hollywood producers, politicians, and so many others try so hard to devalue Christianity. One particularly effective way to do that is to make us appear to be homicidal nuts in make-believe disaster drills. To at least one school district in New Jersey, that's practicing "under conditions as real as possible."

Chilling, isn't it?

GUEST OPINION:



Does God really care about World Cup?

By Melanie Clinton
Johannesburg, South Africa

opposite extreme, claiming the team who prays to God should win. Whose prayer is God supposed to answer? It can't simply be the team with the most Christians. If so, the United States, Brazil, South Korea, and Ghana all should have won the trophy.

A team full of Christians who think God will bless them with victory simply because they're Christians has too much of a prosperity gospel slant for my taste. God often seems to allow defeat, even for men of faith, so He can test and sharpen their characters.

For God, winning isn't really the point. In his classic devotional, My Utmost for His Highest, Oswald Chambers said it well:

We must never put our dreams

of success as God's purpose for us; His purpose may be exactly the opposite. We have an idea that God is leading us to a particular end, a desired goal; He is not. The question of getting to a particular end is a mere incident. What we call the process, God calls the end. ...It is the process, not the end, which is glorifying to God.

When it comes to sports, maybe God is a little like me — not so much into the event itself as He is into the people participating in the event. For example, I don't particularly care about the English Premier League (EPL) but I do like Tim Howard, Clint Dempsey and other Americans who play professional soccer in England. If an EPL match comes on TV, I'll probably watch it just because I want to watch those guys play.

During the World Cup, God may have been more concerned with how Brazilian superstar Kaká, a well-known Christian, handled what many deem an unfair red card, and later his team's defeat in a quarterfinal, than in making sure he won the golden trophy.

For God, victory often comes in how we handle defeat, even if it's just a quiet whisper of victory only He knows about, rather than a confetti-infused triumph on the world stage.

It comes down to the individual. Maybe God allowed Spain to win because 20 years from now, after the glory of winning his country's first World Cup title has faded, a Spanish athlete will realize any worldly victory is hollow without Christ.

Maybe today, a Christian from the Netherlands realizes something similar: a loss isn't devastating, because his real identity is in Christ.

Does God care who wins the World Cup? Definitely. Because He cares about people.

Clinton is a South Africa-based writer and editor for the International Mission Board's global communication team. Her commentary, edited for length, appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 22, 2010

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Pray this day for...

July 23 – August 5, 2010

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Hebrews 4:15-16

Pray for ongoing construction needs to be met for Lakeshore Baptist Church in Cicero, New York. This will be the first permanent church building for this 10-year-old congregation led by Karl Novak.

Pray for a team from Wade BC, Moss Point, as they travel and minister in Haiti. July 26-Aug. 1.

A team from Park Place BC, Pearl, is working and ministering in Siberia. Pray for them as they minister through a ministers' retreat, July 26-Aug. 6.

Pray for Christian teachers since school will soon be starting after the summer break. Pray that God will give them wisdom in word and deed. Pray that their students will see Jesus in their lives.

Pray for Christian students who are making the transition from high school to college. Pray that God will lead them to new friends who will encourage and support them in their walk with the Lord.

Pray for a family from Agricola BC, Lucedale, as they serve in Peru in the areas of VBS, village outreach, and light construction, July 27-31.

Pray for nine Miss. summer missionaries in Malaysia as they are working in a month long English camp with children from all over Southeast Asia. Pray for stamina and opportunities to share Christ's love with these children.

Pray for our country. Pray that God will bring conviction of sin and revival. Pray for God to purify the moral values of our country and cause people to honor Him.

Pray for missionary families all over the world who not only work in difficult places but have the task of homeschooling their children. The new school year will be starting soon.

Pray for national partners as they continue to grow in boldness in sharing and living their faith amongst their families, neighbors, and peoples of other ethno-linguistic tribes (UUPGs) on an island in Southeast Asia.

Pray for the persecuted church in the world. Pray for boldness, courage and love for their enemies. Pray for peace in their hearts as they trust God in extremely difficult situations.

Pray a prayer of praise for the many safe and productive mission trips that Miss. Baptists have participated in this summer. Pray that Miss. Baptists will continue to be willing to go and serve where the Gospel is not.

A missionary in Southeast Asia reports that many Muslims are coming to faith in Jesus Christ. Pray that they will grow in their new found faith. Ask God to bring many, many more Southeast Asian people groups into His Kingdom.

Pray for a good transition for many missionary families who have graduating seniors who are coming back to the States to begin college. It's a very difficult time for these families.



KIDS MINISTRY IN MOTION

FOR KIDS AND THEIR LEADERS
(AGES 4TH-6TH GRADE)

August 21 • Garaywa • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

For more info, contact the Sunday School Department, 601-292-3294 or aboydstun@mbcb.org



Mississippi Baptists were part of seeing more than 20,000 professions of faith last year. With the help of Margaret Lackey, missions volunteers are reaching the lost around the world.

9-8-93

MR. NATHAN TILTON

Parents: J. & P.

Restricted

9-9-95

MISS EMILY C. HEWITT

Parents: Earl and Ramona

Sub-Saharan African Peoples

9-11-96

MISS HAYLEE HOLEMAN

Parents: Jeff and Liesa

Americas Affinity

9-12-99

MISS ANNA GRACE

Parents: Philip & Dawn

Eastern Europe

9-17-05

MR. NATHAN HODGINS

Parents: Ray & Cindy

Deaf Peoples

9-20-93

MR. TYLER BRIDGES

Parents: Randy & Kim

South America

9-21-92

MR. DERRICK DeMARS

Parents: Guy & Cindy

Sub-Saharan African Peoples

9-27-01

MISS MAEGAN K. PUTNAM

Parents: Tracy and Genie

European Peoples

9-30-03

MISS DARBY COX

Parents: Jeremy & Kimberly

Restricted

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name, Parent's name, MBCB wMu MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205. PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the wMu.

Encourage an MK with a card!

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UVZ, OBQ GUOYY
MVYY UVZ: OBQ FUR
FUV DQ QOJ UR GUOYY
DVGR OSOVB.

ZODM FRB: FUVDFJ-
TAID

Clue: Z = M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Twenty-Two: Forty-Two

UNTO US (ANOTHER) SON IS GIVEN

Almost eight centuries before Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, the prophet Isaiah wrote of His coming. In that marvelous prophetic Christmas passage he said, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given" (Isa. 9:6). In the early hours of Sunday morning, July 18, 2010, another son came to be a part of our family. While for centuries the faithful looked for the coming of God's gift in Jesus, we had been waiting only months for God's gift to arrive. So it was true to the quote that a baby has a mind of its own — in reality the boy arrived early. We had been told and so we prepared for a Monday morning birthing but no, he preferred to arrive at about one o'clock on Sunday morning and so we welcomed James Clay Chustz into our family.

There was a host of folks welcoming him as the word went out and everyone was thrilled to see, hear, and hold this marvelous 7 pound, 3 ounce, 19 7/8-inch long creation of God. Of course, Mom and Dad were elated. Big brother and big sister, Coleman and Mary Lamar, attired with their special big brother and big sister t-shirts, welcomed him. Cousins galore joined in the celebration. Madi, Trea, Ridge, Rivers, Banks, Steven, and Sam all got in on the excitement. Since Mysti and Philip had chosen not to know if the baby was a boy or a girl, we were all anxious to hear. Somewhere, after one o'clock in the morning, the doors opened and a proud father introduced us to James Clay Chustz. It was a happy, healthy, and even a holy moment.

Names are always important and in our family, they generally have significance and maybe some connection with heritage. This boy's name, James Clay, is significant. James is without question the most prominent name in our family circle. Both of his grandfathers were named James. Two great grandfathers

were named James. On both sides of his family, he has an uncle named James. On both sides of the family, he has a cousin named James. I suppose at this point I could try to impress you and tell you that his great, great grandfather was responsible for a translation of the Bible, but in fact, that would not be true. However, James does have significance not only in our family but historically and, of course, biblically.

The New Testament is filled with people named James and most of them were God honoring, Christ-following men. Clay, the name that he actually will be called, is significant also. It is significant in the fact that we do not know of anyone in our family circle who was named Clay. The reason that is so significant is because he is a unique creation of God. In time and eternity there has never been anyone like Clay Chustz. In the decades that will follow, no one will be exactly like him and so he is his own unique person before God and in our family. We are blessed to have him with us. As I began preparing this article, I started to title it Lessons from a Granddad. Upon reflection, I saw more meaningful things in Clay and what I wanted to say about him. Please indulge me to give you a few lessons that I have learned through this experience.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Lesson one has to do with the incredible swiftness of the passage of time. I am not old enough to be a grandfather, much less to be a grandparent eight times. Shirley and I were talking as we awaited his arrival about the birth of our own children. The time has passed so quickly. Now here we are with our third child having her third child and we are wondering where all those days went. I have often thought that the great importance of time stewardship does not have to do with how many days you get but how you use each one of them. Capture each day. Let the plan and purpose of God capture you each day and however many of those days He allows you to live here will be filled with His blessings.

Lesson two has to do with strength and stamina. I was reminded as we waited and then celebrated that I am not physically able to be a grandpa. If you choose to be a grandparent, which in fact that choice is not particularly yours to make, you better take your vitamins, exercise, eat right, and try to be in good shape because grandchildren will fill your life, your heart, and your time. Their activities, achieve-

ments, and energy will be boundless and if you get in on most of them, your joy will be boundless.

The third lesson is simply a reminder to me and maybe to you and yours that the birth of a child or a grandchild is not just a celebration of reproduction, but it is much more. It is recognition of heavenly renewal of the handiwork of God Himself. As I watched Clay in those early moments of his earthly journey, I thought about the words of the great prophet Jeremiah as he quoted the heart of God and said, "I know the plans I have for you." Actually, for his Mom and Dad, the name Clay is derived from Jeremiah 18 where we are described as being "clay in the Potter's hand." That is their hearts' desire and the image they would love for their boy to be: pliable, usable, and a God-honoring Clay.

Great possibilities are ahead for Clay Chustz. God has provided him with a loving family, a sweet Mom and Dad, a brother, a sister, two wonderful grandmothers, and a world that may have great needs but also offers great opportunities. While many of us will get to know him and seek to love and influence his life, the plans of God are ultimately the plans that will bring greatest fulfillment to his life and blessings to this world. As in the past, I was reminded that God places the hope of the future in the hands of a little child.

Clay, we are glad that you are here.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

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MS POSITIONS

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - NEW Albany, MS is now accepting resumes for the position of Minister of Music/Senior Adult Ministries. Please email resumes to office@firstbaptist-newalbany.com or mail to: FBC Music Search Committee, 1009 CR. 368, New Albany, MS 38652.

FBC FULTON ACCEPTING RESUMES for F/T Pastor at First Baptist Church, P. O. Box 400, Fulton, Ms. 38843 or fax to 662-862-5793 or email gailre@nexband.com.

SYLVA RENA BAPTIST CHURCH, Yalobush County, Ms. is seeking a full time Pastor. Please send resume to: Pastor Search Committee Chairman, 17846 Hwy 32, Water Valley, Ms. 38965.

GRANDVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, Pearl, MS is seeking a church pianist to play for two Sunday services, and choir rehearsal Wednesdays. Please contact Mike @ 601-624-9389.

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NATIONAL HEIGHTS BAPTIST Church (www.nationalheights.org) seeks full time Minister of Music for traditional and blended services. Email: resumes@nationalheights.org or mail: NHBC Personnel Committee, 3050 N. National, Springfield, MO 65803.

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REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Oak Grove Church, Prentiss:** Revival, July 25 - 28; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by pot luck lunch and 1:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Claude Shufelt, speaker; Tommy Creel, music.
2. **Sardis Church, Smith County Association:** Homecoming, Aug. 1, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and afternoon song service; Robin Nichols, speaker; Walter "Skippy" Griffith, music; Brian Fitzsimmons, pastor.
3. **Bradford Chapel Church, Gore Springs:** Revival, July 25 - 28; 7 p.m.; Wayne Hudson, speaker; Tim Hardaway, music; Jon Haimes, pastor.
4. **Central Church, Brandon:** Revival, July 25 - 28; Sun., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Steve Smith, speaker; Mike Smith, music.
5. **Sunrise Church, Petal:** Homecoming, Aug. 1; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Mark Byrd, speaker; Gerald Buckley, pastor.
6. **Antioch Church, Rankin County:** Homecoming, July 25; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by potluck lunch; Larry Duncan, speaker.
7. **New Hope Church, Sumrall:** Revival, July 25 - 30; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon service; Mon. - Fri., 7 p.m.; Scott Murphy, speaker; Kenny White, music; Charles Broome, pastor.
8. **Cash Church, Scott County:** Revival, July 25 - 30; Sun., 10:45 a.m., followed by potluck lunch; Mon. - Fri., 7 p.m.; Reggie Williams, speaker; Danny Harrison, music; M.L. Wallace, pastor.
9. **Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg:** Revival, July 25 - 28; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch and song service; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m., with refreshments being served; Keith Gordon, speaker; Roy Moody, pastor.
10. **Pleasant Hill Church, New Hebron:** Revival, July 25 - 28; Sun. 11 a.m., followed by lunch; 7 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m. with refreshments following Wed. service; Valton Douglas, speaker; Chad Douglas, music; Philip Douglas, pastor.
11. **Mt. Zion Church, Leake County:** Memorial service, Aug. 1, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Ricky McKay, speaker; Tommy W. Jones, music; Wayne McGee, pastor.
12. **Gum Springs Church, Braxton:** Homecoming, Aug. 8; service, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and singing service; pastor Chris Layton, speaker.
13. **Calvary Church, Carroll County:** Revival, July 25 - 28; Sun., 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; Jody Wooten, speaker; Jerry Woods, music.
14. **Sarepta Church, Franklin County:** Homecoming and 200th anniversary, July 25; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship dinner and other activities; Jim Futral, speaker; Melaine Moree, music; Futral will present the church with an anniversary plaque, and an updated history book by Campbell and Purser will be available.
15. **Sapa Church, Eupora:** Revival, July 25 - 28; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and 7 p.m. nightly; finger foods after Wed. service; Johnny Parks, speaker; Tom and Linda Thompson, music; Harvey Overstreet, pastor.
16. **Calvary Church, Silver Creek:** Revival, July 25 - 28; Michael Grenn, speaker; Bernie Parker, music.
17. **County Line Church, Dossville:** Homecoming, July 25; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Danny Sephton, speaker; Robert Magee, pastor.
18. **Holcomb Church, Holcomb:** Revival, Aug. 1 - 4; Ken Boyette, speaker; Jackie Johnson, music; Bob Johnson, pastor.
19. **Grace Church, Calhoun City:** Homecoming, July 25; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon program; Buford Usry, speaker.
20. **New Home Church, Scott County:** Revival, July 25 - 28; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 1:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Paul Smith, speaker; Larry Beasley, music; Billy McKay, pastor.
21. **Calvary Church, Canton:** Revival, Aug. 8 - 11; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; fellowship after Wed. services; Don Lum, speaker; Scott Jones, music.
22. **Murphy Creek, Winston County:** Revival, August 1-6; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon-Fri., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, speaker; Scott Gregory, music; Walter Simmons, pastor.
23. **New Henleyfield Church, Pearl River Association:** Homecoming, July 25; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; R.T. Buckley, speaker.
24. **Old Hebron Church, New Hebron:** Revival, July 25 - 28; Sunday 11 a.m. with lunch following; Sunday afternoon service 1:30 p.m.; no Sunday evening service; Mon-Wed, 7 p.m.; Doyle Boyles, speaker; Pat Boyles, music; Tommy Tanner, pastor.

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COLLEGE NEWS

A Texas-born pastor-turned comedian, Dennis Swanberg will take his message to a Mississippi College student/parent convocation on August 21. Dubbed America's "Minister of Encouragement," Swanberg will also serve up hilarious impressions of famed TV sheriff Barney Fife of Mayberry and presidents like Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter. Movie legends like John Wayne, Jimmy Stewart and Walter Brennan usually get equal time in his lineup of favorite impressions. The event that Saturday begins at 2 p.m. at First Church Clinton.

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

The Power of Loyalty

1 Samuel 24:20-22; 26:1-2, 7-12, 21-25

By Tony Martin

"No good deed goes unpunished," someone once wryly noted, and this somewhat cynical view sets the scene in which David and Saul once again find themselves at odds. David has shown himself to be gracious toward the totally undeserving Saul, and Saul rewards David by attempting to kill him.

For those who toil willingly in Christ's service, who display righteousness or loyalty to God, it may seem as though folks are never rewarded. Service to God is its own reward; but that notwithstanding, this lesson will demonstrate that there is a reward for righteousness, and that knowledge can help us commit to living such a life.

Treachery Intended

(1 Samuel 24:20-22; 26:1-2)

Chapter 24 details the classic incident in which David creeps up unnoticed on Saul and cuts

off a corner of his robe—a demonstration that David could have easily taken Saul's life. Then David, conscience-stricken, confesses to Saul.

Saul—who seems to be more frequently showing a dangerously unbalanced mental state—first asks, "Is that your voice, David my son?" (v. 16, NIV). Then he follows this statement of the obvious by acknowledging that David will one day be king (v. 20), and reunite the kingdom that Saul had destroyed. Note that Saul's primary concern isn't for Israel, but that his own family and descendants not be cut off.

Perhaps Saul knew the right thing to do. In some remedial fashion, he knew that the right thing would be to embrace David's ascendancy to the throne and depart from the scene. But knowing the right thing to do and actually doing

Martin

it can be two different impulses, and Saul was incapable of letting go of his hatred of David, in spite of his gracious words. Self-service, looking after oneself exclusively, can be a crippling temptation. It was a temptation that Saul yielded to.

Trust Applied

(1 Samuel 26:7-12)

Once more, David spared the life of Saul rather than lift his hand against the Lord's anointed. The whole of Saul's camp was in deep sleep, and it was easy enough for David and Abishai to move through all the soldiers, wagons, and baggage, and make their way directly to Saul's side.

Abishai was convinced that it was time for Saul to die (v. 8), and he was more than happy to do the deed. But David had already settled the issue of Saul's death in the cave (chapter 24), and he wouldn't allow Abishai to touch Saul. David noted that either God Himself would strike Saul, or that Saul would die when his time came, or, perhaps, he would be killed in battle. Whatever the case, David knew it was not his role to kill Saul. Instead, he simply took the spear (a sign of Saul's office and authority) and water jug that were at Saul's head and left with them.

Every day we have opportunities to do good or evil. David chose good. It may be that he was tempted to take matters into his own hands, but instead he trusted in God's own timetable. Trust—especially in the sovereignty of God—was a hallmark of David's life, as it should be of ours.

Loyalty Rewarded

(1 Samuel 26:21-25)

Again, David and Saul meet, and David tries to show Saul how wrong he was in his think-

ing and acting. David asks, and rightly so, "why is my lord pursuing his servant? What have I done, and what was wrong I am guilty of?" (v. 18, NIV). David was willing to bring an offering and have his sin forgiven. David tries to help Saul see that there is a difference between the Lord moving Saul to pursue David and the possibility that Saul's men have stirred up Saul.

Saul goes all sentimental on David, a tactic he has adopted before. "I have sinned. Come back, David my son," he says (v. 21, NIV). David doesn't buy it, but instead has Saul's spear returned to him. He knew Saul couldn't be trusted, and he was willing to receive the Lord's reward of safety and protection.

Those who are loyal to God can expect His blessings. We should never be afraid to ask God to deliver us from trouble. For David, being loyal to God spared him from the hand of the wicked Saul, and God will likewise protect us.

Scripture verses are from NIV.

Martin is the Associate Editor of *The Baptist Record*.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Can I Believe in Resurrection?

1 Corinthians 15:1-16:24

By Laura Leathers

Is Easter the only time Christians focus on the resurrection of Christ? Do pastors preach or teach about the resurrection of Christ on a regular basis? The resurrection of Jesus Christ is mentioned over one hundred times in the New Testament. "Our Savior's resurrection is truly of great importance in Christianity—so great that His being or not being the Messiah stands or falls with it," wrote the famous British philosopher, John Locke. In the fifteenth chapter of first Corinthians, Paul writes what "is the most extensive treatment of the resurrection in the Bible" (MacArthur Study Bible); the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the resurrection of believers. The best way to describe this chapter: doctrinal, in-depth, and magnificent.

It Is the Gospel

1 Cor. 15:1-6

The church in Corinth was dealing with a major doctrinal error—denial of the resurrection. Paul deals with the issue by beginning with the evidence of the resurrection to the church. He preached, the Corinthians received the Gospel, and many were saved. This is what their faith stood upon and it was proof Christ was building His church. Next, was the Old Testament—according to the Scriptures. Every account of a sacrificial lamb is a picture of the death of Christ; read Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53. Then in Psalm 16:20 you will find "nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay." Christ is the fulfillment of the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation. Finally, to further



Leathers

refute their denial Paul points them to the testimony of eye witnesses. First it was Peter, the Twelve, to more than five hundred at one time, then to James, all the Apostles, and last of all, to Paul. In a court of law it is the eye witnesses who provide the testimony—case closed.

The resurrection is at the heart of the Christian faith. Romans 10:9-10 states, "if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation" (Romans 10:9-10). A person must repent from their sin, trust Jesus for salvation, and then submit to Him as Lord. He is risen, risen indeed! This is the gospel!

It Is Reasonable

1 Cor. 15:12-18

Have you ever said something and then thought... this

is at the top of the list for the dumbest things ever said? The Apostle Paul was probably scratching his head and wondering, what are the Corinthians thinking? Do they really understand if you say there is no resurrection you are saying Christ is dead and if Christ is dead then there is no resurrection of believers. Where is the hope? Paul gives six disastrous consequences which would occur for believers if there were no resurrection: there would be no need to preach Christ; faith in Christ is useless; the witnesses must have been liars; you are still in sins; those who have already died have perished; we are of all men most to be pitied.

"But now Christ has been raised from the dead" (vs. 20). Peter referred to the believer's resurrection as a heavenly inheritance. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you..." (1 Peter 1:3-4). This is reasonable and you can believe in it.

It Is Certain

1 Cor. 15:50-52, 54b-57

"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed." The perishable body will be changed to the imperishable and death will be swallowed up in victory. As Paul ends this segment of the letter he exclaims, with certainty, the believers' resurrection based on the fulfillment of Isaiah 25:8 and Hosea 13:14. These two Old Testament prophecies relate to the death and resurrection of Jesus. No wonder Paul wrote, "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (vs. 57). In Him and through Him a believer can be certain of their resurrection!

Leathers is a member of First Church, Durant.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8-1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

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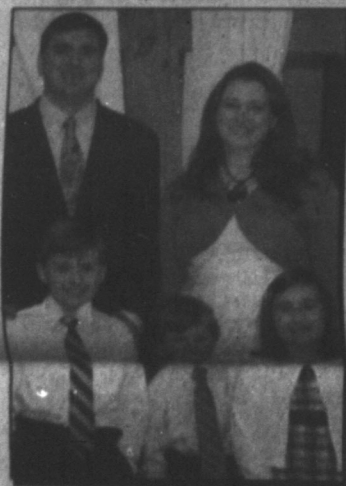
1. Providence Church, Carroll County

1. **Providence Church, Carroll County:** June 21 - 25; children brought over \$170 which will go to the Baptist Children's Village; thirty enrolled with average attendance of 25; shown are the participants.
2. **Calvary Church, Oak Grove:** Average attendance, 124; offering of \$648 collected. Shown are the participants.
3. **North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton:** June 7 - 11; shown are the participants.

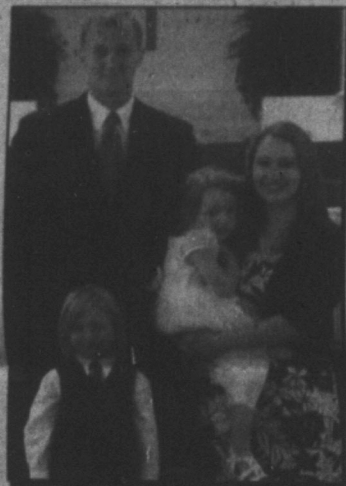


2. Calvary Church, Oak Grove

STAFF CHANGES



1. The Matthews



2. The Magers

1. **First Church, Hazlehurst,** has called John A. Matthews as pastor. He comes with his wife Tonya and children Alex, Abby, and Andrew. He is a Columbus native and holds degrees from Mississippi State University and New Orleans Seminary. He comes from First Church, Bogalusa, La., where he served as associate minister.
2. **Tiptonville Church, Tipton County** has called Thomas Magers II as pastor. He is shown with his wife Amanda and children Aaron III and Aryana.



3. North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton

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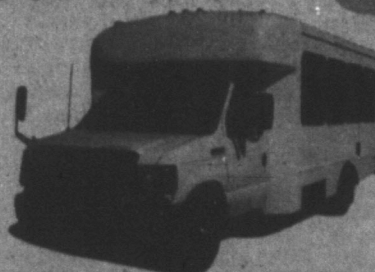
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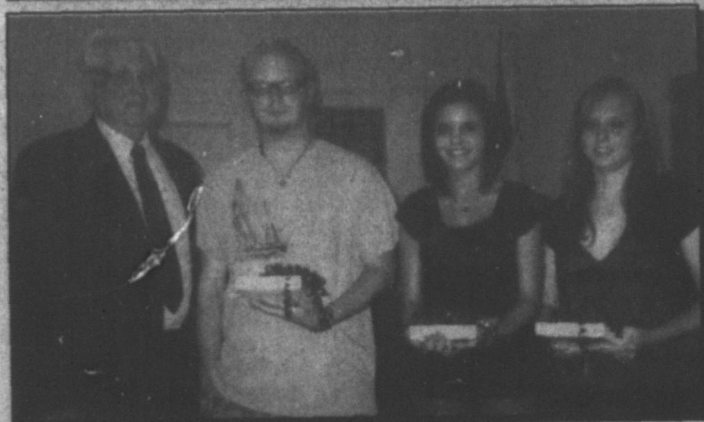
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1. Concord Church, Booneville



5. Bovina Church, Vicksburg



2. New Henleyfield Church, Carriere



6. Gandy recognition

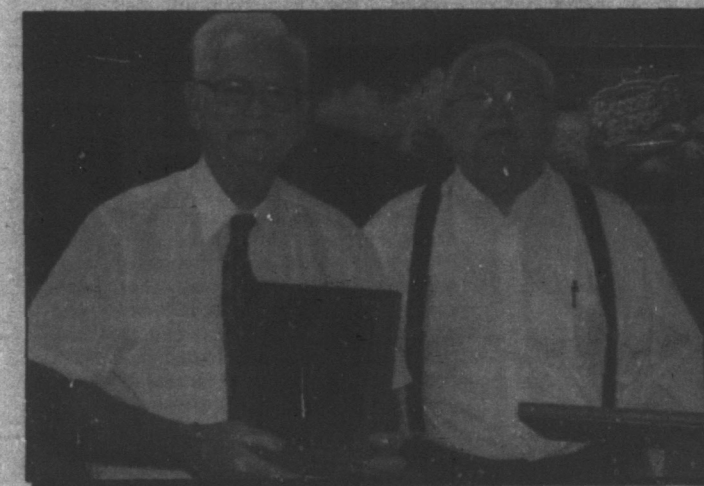


3. North Columbia Church, Columbia

1. Concord Church, Booneville, honored graduating seniors May 23 during their evening service and with a reception following. Shown are Robert E. Walker, Cody Pannell, Olivia Mauney, and Hali Glidewell.
2. New Henleyfield Church, Carriere, held a baby dedication Mother's Day. Shown are Timothy and Candis Thompson with baby Benjamin; Drew and Emily Dabbs with Evangeline; Kyle and Ashley Lowe with baby Landon, and Connie and Eddie Gore with baby Tyler.
3. North Columbia Church, Columbia, held an RA Commissioning service recently. Shown are RAs and their leaders; leaders are Stacey Nolan, William Walley, Eric Lucas, Jason Carney, Gerald Broom, and John Nolan.
4. Thorn Hill Church, Pelahatchie, honored Jonnie T. Conn for 50 years of faithful service as deacon June 20. He was presented with a plaque at a reception hosted by the church for his family and friends. Shown is Conn, with plaque.
5. The Willing Workers Sunday School Class of Bovina Church, Vicksburg, completed the Walk to Jerusalem program, which consisted of five months of walking and praying totaling 3462 miles. Shown are some of the participants.
6. Liberty Church, Wayensboro, recognized their pastor, Phillip Gandy, for 20 years of service. Shown are Phillip Gandy, his wife, and Virgil Palmer.
7. The children of First Church, Brooklyn, enjoyed camp at Paul B. Johnson State Park. Shown are the participants.
8. The Holcomb Church, Holcomb, Timeless Treasures recently went to Eureka Springs, Ark., to see the Passion Play. Shown are Bob Johnson, Marie Hobbs, Ruth Lewis, Margaret Griffin, Eva Fisher, Lucy Coffman, Francis Hill, and Sue Niccum.



7. First Church, Brooklyn



4. Conn recognition



8. Holcomb Church, Holcomb